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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/668,395

09/23/2003

Adam J. Kirkley

11432.00

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26884 7590 07/14/2010
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EXAMINER

AN, IG TAI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3687

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/14/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/668,395	Applicant(s) KIRKLEY, ADAM J.	
	Examiner Ig T. An	Art Unit 3687	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The Appeal Brief filed on 13 April 2010 has been acknowledged. Currently, claims 1 – 15 are pending and considered as set forth.

Status of Appeal

In view of the Appeal Brief filed on 2/4/09, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new rejection is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of reopening prosecution by signing below:

/Matthew. S Gart/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3687

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. **Claims 1 - 2, and 4 - 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swartz (US 5877485) in view of Walter et al. (Hereinafter Walter) (US 5992570).**

As per Claim 1, Swartz discloses a security method for a self-service checkout system (Abstract) comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining identification information of a customer involved in a self-service transaction by a self-service computer of a customer operated self-service checkout system (Column 4 line 27 – 42 teaches the system receive customer information in a transaction from a customer loyalty card);

b) determining a risk level associated with the identification information of the customer (Abstract teaches the self-scanning checkout system determines the risk level/ number of items to check based on the identification information of the customer such as shopping frequency, queue length, prior history, and etc.);

c) determining a security level associated with the risk level (Abstract and Column 6 lines 45 – column 7 line 34 teaches the self-scanning checkout system calculates how many items to be check is determined based on security criteria and customer identification information such as shopping frequency, prior history and etc.); and

d) configuring the self-service checkout system to complete the self-service transaction by the self-service computer including the self-service computer to identify products, in accordance with the security level by the self-service computer (Abstract teaches the self checkout system that determines how many items to check by cashier or security guard based on the security level).

However, Swartz is silent regarding the self-checkout system accepting payment from the customer at the self-service computer.

Walter discloses self-service checkout apparatus having the self-checkout system accepting payment from the customer at the self-service computer (Abstract teaches self-service checkout apparatus accepting card and cash payment).

Therefore, from this teaching of Walter, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify self-checkout system which determines the risk and security level of customer using statistic data of

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Swartz to include the self-checkout system accepting payment as taught by Walter to provide the checkout station which has combined functionality of ATM and POS terminals (Column 2 line 11 - 14).

Furthermore, all the claimed elements were known in the prior arts of Swartz and Walter, and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

As per Claim 2, Swartz discloses obtaining the identification information from a loyalty card carried by the customer (Column 4 line 27 – 42).

As per Claim 4, Swartz discloses

b-1) storing shopping history data of the customer (Abstract); and

b-2) assigning a risk level based upon the shopping history data of the customer (Abstract).

As per Claim 5, Swartz discloses

b-1) storing shopping history data of the customer (Column 7 lines 3 – 8);

b-2) obtaining current transaction data of the customer (Column 6 lines 45 – 54);

and

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b-2) assigning a risk level based upon the shopping history data of the customer and the current transaction data of the customer (Column 7 line 35 – 55).

As per Claim 6, Swartz discloses

b-1) defining categories of shoppers of different risk levels (Abstract);

b-2) storing shopping history data of the customer (Abstract);

b-3) determining a category of the customer by comparing the shopping history data of the customer to the categories of shoppers (Column 7 line 35 – 55); and

b-4) determining that the risk level is associated with the category of the customer (Column 7 line 35 – column 8 line 15).

As per Claim 7, Swartz discloses

c-1) looking up the risk level of the customer in an established list of risk levels (Column 7 line 35 – column 8 line 15); and

c-2) determining that the security level of the customer is associated with the risk level of the customer in the list (Column 8 line 16 – 49).

As per Claim 8, Swartz discloses relaxing security for lower security levels (Abstract and column 7 line 35 – column 8 line 24. Fewer items will be checked for a customer who is high security level and low risk level).

As per Claim 9, Swartz discloses tightening security for higher security levels (Abstract and column 7 line 35 – column 8 line 24. More items will be checked for a customer with higher risk level and lower security level).

As per Claim 10, Swartz discloses

e) implementing configured security procedures for the security level until the customer leaves the self-service checkout system (Column 8 line 16 – 49); and

f) storing data from the transaction in shopper history data of the customer (Column 8 line 36 – 49).

Claims 11 – 15 have similar limitations as Claims 1 – 2 and 4 - 10.

Therefore, Claims 11 – 15 are rejected under same rationale.

1. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swartz in view of Walter and in further view of Zhang et al. (hereinafter Zhang) (US 20030177066).

As per Claim 3, the combination of Swartz and Walter discloses all the elements of the claimed invention, but is silent regarding obtaining biometric data from the customer; and determining that the identification information of the customer is associated with the biometric data of the customer.

Zhang discloses an integrated marketing promotion system and method having obtaining biometric data from the customer (Paragraph 127); and determining that the

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identification information of the customer is associated with the biometric data of the customer (Paragraph 127).

Therefore, from this teaching of Zhang, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify self-scanning checkout system of the combination of Swartz and Walter to include biometric data of customer as a identification information as taught by Zhang to easily identify and verify the customer.

Furthermore, all the claimed elements were known in the prior arts of Swartz, Walter and Zhang, and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

4. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swartz (US 5877485) in view of Walter et al. (Hereinafter Walter) (US 5992570) in further view of Walter et al. (Hereinafter WalterB) (US 5747784).

As per Claim 15, Swartz discloses a security method for a self-service checkout system (Abstract) comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining identification information of a customer involved in a self-service transaction by a self-service computer of a customer operated self-service checkout

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system (Column 4 line 27 – 42 teaches the system receive customer information in a transaction from a customer loyalty card);

b) determining a risk level associated with the identification information of the customer (Abstract teaches the self-scanning checkout system determines the risk level/ number of items to check based on the identification information of the customer such as shopping frequency, queue length, prior history, and etc.);

c) determining a security level associated with the risk level (Abstract and Column 6 lines 45 – column 7 line 34 teaches the self-scanning checkout system calculates how many items to be check is determined based on security criteria and customer identification information such as shopping frequency, prior history and etc.); and

d) configuring the self-service checkout system to complete the self-service transaction by the self-service computer including the self-service computer to identify products, in accordance with the security level by the self-service computer (Abstract teaches the self checkout system that determines how many items to check by cashier or security guard based on the security level).

However, Swartz is silent regarding the self-checkout system accepting payment from the customer at the self-service computer.

Walter discloses self-service checkout apparatus having the self-checkout system accepting payment from the customer at the self-service computer (Abstract teaches self-service checkout apparatus accepting card and cash payment).

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Therefore, from this teaching of Walter, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify self-checkout system which determines the risk and security level of customer using statistic data of Swartz to include the self-checkout system accepting payment as taught by Walter to provide the checkout station which has combined functionality of ATM and POS terminals (Column 2 line 11 - 14).

Furthermore, all the claimed elements were known in the prior arts of Swartz and Walter, and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

Swartz and Walter teaches all the elements of the claimed invention but is silent regarding performing weight checks of products placed on the scale by the customer at the self-service computer.

WalterB discloses method and apparatus for enhancing security in a self-service checkout system having the weight scale for perform weight check on the self-service computer (Column 3 line 66 – Column 4 line 4).

Therefore, from this teaching of WalterB, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify self-checkout system which determines the risk and security level of customer using statistic data which accept payment from customer of Swartz and Walter to include weight scale as

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taught by WalterB to determine the insertion of items (Column 3 line 66 – Column 4 line 4).

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Appeal Brief, filed on 13 April 2010, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 15 under Swartz in view of Walter have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Swartz in view of Walter and in further view of WalterB.

Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bellis Jr. et al. (US 6598791) self-checkout system and method including item buffer for item security verification.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ig T. An whose telephone number is (571)270-5110. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9 - 6.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew S. Gart can be reached on 571-272-3955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/lg T An/
Examiner, Art Unit 3687

/Matthew. S Gart/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3687